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1. SEPARAT CONVERSATIONS WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER NGUYEN LUU VIEN AND PEOPLES' ARMY COUNCIL PRESIDENT NGUYEN VAN LOC, SUGGEST THAT THE LATTER WILL PROBABLY BE PRIME MINISTER KY'S VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE.

2. LOC SAIDTHAT HE HAD BEEN SUMMONED RECENTLY BY THE PRIME MINISTER TO DISCUSS THE MATTER AGAIN. ALTHOUGH HE CLAIMED THAT NO FINAL DECISION HAD BEEN MADE, HE ASKED OUR ASSISTANCE IN GETTING

PAGE 2 RUMJIR 28313 C O N F I D E N T IU L
BACK HIS HOUSE (WHICH HAS BEEN OCCUPIED BY U.S. MILITARY WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK. ONE OF THE EXPLANATIONS GIVEN WAS THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ANNOUNCEMENT AND THE RELATIVE INSECURITY OF HIS PRESENT RESIDENCE IN TU DUC. HIS OTHER COMMENTS ALSO SUGGESTD THAT HE WAS WORKING VERY CLOSELY WITH THE PRIME MINISTER.

3. VIEN, ON THE OTHER HAND, MADE A NUMBER OF OBSERVATIONS THAT SUGGEST HE WAS NOT IN AGREEMENT WITH SOME OF KY'S RECENT MOVES. HE SAID HE HAD SUPPORTED STRONLY IN THE DIRECTORATE THE PROPOSAL FOR A RUN-OFF ELECTION. HE WELCOMED GENERAL THIEU'S CANDIDACY, EMPHASIZING AT THE SAME TIME THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF HAVING TRULY FREE ELECTIONS. IN RESPONSE TO A QUERY, VIEN SAID HE HAD NO PLANS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS AND WOULD ONLY BE OBSERVING" THEM. VIEN ALSO EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT CORRUPITON WOULD BE THE ISSUE OF GREATEST INTREST TO THE AVERAGE RURAL VOTER.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Dean Izenberg DATE 10/5/81
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COMMENT: IN RECENT WEEKS THE MAIN CIVILIANS WHO HAD BEEN MENTIONED AS KY'S POSSIBLE VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN VIEN, LOC, AND LA THANH NGHE. WE HAVE HEARD NO FURTHER

MENTION OF THE LATTER AND BELIEVE THAT LOC IS PROBABLY THE ONE WHO HAS BEEN TAPPED. KY MAY OF COURSE HOLD OFF ANOTHER WEEK OR SO BEFORETAKING THE FORMAL STEP OF ANNOUNCING HIS FELLOW CANDIDATE BEFORE THE JUNE 30 DEADLINE. BUNKER
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